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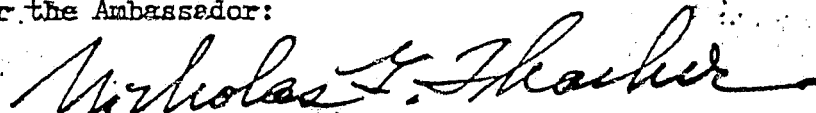
PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Cultural Center Inaugurated. At an open house in the new premises on June 1, the USIS Cultural Center in downtown Jidda was formally inaugurated. Patron Prince Muhammad bin Faysal, temporarily absent from the Kingdom, was unfortunately unable to return in time for the ceremonies. The Prince cabled a message of greetings and congratulations. Amir of Mecca, Prince Mish'al, was guest of honor. A large number of guests were addressed briefly in Arabic by Ambassador Hart and PAO Sabbagh and were then given a tour of the Center. Light refreshments were served afterwards at a nearby hotel. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Eshkol Visit to the U.S. Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol's visit to the U.S. was the subject of intense interest to Saudi news media during the week. The demarche made by the Arab ambassadors in Washington in their meeting with the Secretary May 26 merited banner headlines in al-Bilad and al-Madina and was reported by Radio Mecca. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Typical of newspaper comment on the visit was al-Madina's provocative daily column "Political Commentary". The writer (name unknown) observed that in ordinary circumstances such a visit would not merit special attention. However, he pointed out, Eshkol's arrival in America comes when the U.S. is preparing for the Presidential elections and coincides with increased "Israeli aggressiveness" in the Middle East. These factors make the Israeli's trip particularly dangerous. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:



Nicholas G. Thacher
Counselor of Embassy

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